

II. Claims 9-17, drawn to a method of making, classified in Class 29, subclass 890.14.

Applicant elects the invention as set forth in Claims 1-8 drawn to a pipe assembly to be examined without traverse.

REMARKS

1. Upon review of the application, Applicant has discovered that with regard to the "Type of Declaration" section of the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney filed with the divisional application, the box for "Original" was mistakenly checked off instead of the box for "Divisional". Attached hereto is a new Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for the claims provided in the Second Preliminary Amendment herein. Please inform the Applicant whether or not a new Declaration is needed to correct the mistake with the initially filed Declaration.
2. It is Applicant's intent to have the claims of the Second Preliminary Amendment, which are also drawn to a pipe assembly, to be examined in the same application with the elected Claims 1-8.
3. Applicant has considered all points made by the Examiner in his Office Action dated May 11, 2004 and have incorporated Examiner's suggestions to ensure compliance with the applicable rules. If impediments to the prosecution of the elected claims remain and a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner would help remove such impediments in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference is respectfully

requested. If additional fees are required as a result of the additional claims in the Second Preliminary Amendment, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge Account No. 500808 for these fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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